

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00046 161353Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
-----042616 161431Z /46

P 152030Z FEB 78

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1250
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUEBEC 0046

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: WILL LIBERALS CHOOSE MOSES OR A GREY FLANNEL SUIT?

1. CONTEST FOR QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CONTINUES AT HEATED PACE. BOTH CANDIDATES, FORMER LE DEVOIR PUBLISHER, CLAUDE RYAN AND EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE, RAYMOND GARNEAU, ARE CARRYING ON AMERICAN STYLE BATTLE FOR DELEGATE VOTES AT PARTY CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN QUEBEC CITY APRIL 14-15. CONSTANTLY MOVING BACK AND FORTH ALONG QUEBEC'S MAIN POPULATION AXIS BETWEEN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC CITY AND OCCASIONAL FORAYS TO OUTSTATIONS SUCH AS SHERBROOKE AND CHICOUTOUMI, CANDIDATES ARE CARRYING CAMPAIGN TO PARTY MEMBERSHIP AND, IN LESS DIRECT WAY, TO GENERAL POPULATION ON RIDING BY RIDING BASIS. THUSFAR, BOTH CANDIDATES HAVE ESCHEWED, FOR MOST PART, DIRECT ATTACKS ON ADVERSARY, EVEN DURING SERIES OF FACE TO FACE DEBATES THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN VARIOUS PROVINCIAL CENTERS.

2. RYAN CONTINUES TO BE FRONT RUNNER. HE HAS GREAT PRESTIGE AND AURA OF MORAL AUTHORITY STEMMING FROM REPUTATION AS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00046 161353Z

FERCELY INDEPENDENT HEAD OF QUEBEC'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPER. HIS PUBLIC IMAGE IS REINFORCED BY POLITICALLY POTENT PERSONAL QUALITIES OF AN ORACULAR SPEAKING STYLE AND GAUNT, SHARPLY ANGULAR FACIAL FEATURES. THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT DESPERATE QUEBEC FEDERALISTS, AS WELL AS LARGE NUMBER OF BEWILDERED UNDECIDED VOTERS, ARE SEEKING MESSIAH LEAD THEM OUT OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. MANY BELIEVE

THEY HAVE FOUND HIM IN THE AUSTERE, JESUITIC RYAN WHOSE APPEAL IS ANTITHESIS OF USUAL NORTH AMERICAN CONCEPTION OF CHARISMATIC POLITICAL LEADER. MUST BE REMEMBERED, QUEBECOIS ARE TRIBAL PEOPLE WITH STRONG TRADITION OF UNQUESTIONING BELIEF AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUTHORITARIAN LEADERSHIP. IN THEIR COLLECTIVE GETHSEMANE, MANY, ESPECIALLY AMONG OLDER GENERATION AND THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE MONTREAL, MAY FIND RYAN'S LEADERSHIP IRRESISTABLE. TO YOUTH AND TO MORE SOPHISTICATED VOTERS, RYAN HAS ADDED IMPORTANT ASSETS OF IMPECCABLE REPUTATION FOR PROBITY AND IMPRESSIVE INTELLECTUAL STATURE. UNFORTUNATELY, RYAN'S IMAGE WAS TARNISHED BY THE LONG AND AGONIZED PROCESS WHICH FINALLY LED HIM TO POSE HIS CANDIDACY.

3. BESIDE THIS GIANT OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS, POOR GARNEAU SEEMS DECIDEDLY LILLIPUTIAN. HE HAS A QUICK CHARM AND SOMEWHAT BOYISH GOOD LOOKS. HIS QUICK, ALERT MIND HAS BEEN HONED DURING TEN YEARS OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TERM WITH THE DEMANDING RESPONSIBILITIES OF FINANCE MINISTER. HIS GREATEST POLITICAL ASSET IN THE PRESENT INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE IS HIS REPUTATION AS A LOYAL PARTY MAN. NO ONE WOULD DESCRIBE HIM AS A "HACK POLITICIAN" FOR HE IS FAR TOO BRIGHT AND SOPHISTICATED TO FIT THE LABEL. NONETHELESS, AMONG LONG TIME PARTY WORKERS WHO WILL INEVITABLY HAVE A STRONG VOICE AT THE PARTY CONVENTION, HE IS LOOKED ON AS A PARTY MAN WHO HAS PAID HIS DUES THROUGH LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE. RYAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS VIEWED AS A JOHNNIE-COME-LATELY WHO ONLY JUST JOINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00046 161353Z

PARTY AND WHO IS GUILTY OF MORTAL SIN OF HAVING SUPPORTED PQ DURING CLOSING PHASE OF LAST PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

4. THUS , CONTEST COULD BE CLOSER THAN MIGHT HAVE SEEMED POSSIBLE SOME MONTHS AGO. PARTY LOYALISTS MAY BE CAPABLE OF SUICIDAL ACT OF BLOCKING RYAN'S ELECTION BY CONVENTION. CLEARLY , GARNEAU WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR LEVESQUE IN CONTEST FOR QUEBEC TRIBAL LEADERSHIP. RYAN, HOWEVER, STILL MAY HAVE THIS POTENTIAL. MCNAMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUEBEC00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0914
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780252/aaaabryr.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60e0f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3586481
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILL LIBERALS CHOOSE MOSES OR A GREY FLANNEL SUIT?
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60e0f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014